

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1 WHITLAM PLEASED WITH HIS VISITS TO CHINA AND JAPAN

AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM, SPEAKING TO THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB IN CANBERRA, SAID THAT THE GOA HAD GONE A LONG WAY TOWARDS ACHIEVING MEANINGFUL COMMUNICATION WITH JAPAN AND CHINA. WHITLAM DESCRIBED A POSSIBLE "HONEST BROKER" ROLE FOR AUSTRALIA IN US-CHINESE-JAPANESE RELATIONS, BUT DENIED ANY AUSTRALIAN INTENTION TO BECOME AN "ADVOCATE" FOR THE PRC IN THE REGION. USLO PEKING REPORTS THAT THE AUSTRALIANS ARE VERY PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS OF THE WHITLAM VISIT, FEELING THAT THE AGREEMENT ON RECIPROCAL MINISTERIAL VISITS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOME OF THE VISIT. CHOU EN-LAI TOLD WHITLAM THAT HE INTENDED TO RAISE THE SUBJECT OF CHILE WITH THE SECRETARY DURING THE SECRETARY'S UPCOMING VISIT. (SECRET) CANBERRA 6080 AND PEKING 1356, 11/8.

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2. MAO TSE-TUNG AT 79

THE AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR IN PEKING, THE FIRST RESIDENT DIPLOMAT TO SEE THE CHAIRMAN IN YEARS, REPORTS THAT

MAO TSE-TUNG IS SO FRAIL WITH AGE THAT HE CAN ONLY

PARTICIPATE IN CHINESE AFFAIRS IN A CAREFULLY CONTROLLED ADVISORY ROLE. THE CHAIRMAN'S MIND APPEARS ALERT AND ACTIVE, ALTHOUGH HE SUFFERS OCCASIONAL MEMORY LAPSES. MAO DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS "RIDDLED WITH DISEASE," AND "FAST APPROACHING HIS MAKER." MAO'S ACTIONS AND SURROUNDINGS, COMMENTED THE AMBASSADOR, SEEM TO BE MANAGED BY PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI AND A GROUP OF YOUNG WOMEN CADRES WHO ATTEND HIM. (CONFIDENTIAL) USLO PEKING 1351, 11/8 (EXDIS).

3. SIXTH FLEET FUELING PROVOKES ARAB THREAT AGAINST ITALY

EMBASSY ROME REPORTS THAT THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR IN SAUDI ARABIA WAS CALLED IN TO HEAR A SAUDI CHARGE THAT ITALY, THROUGH ITS REFUELING OF THE SIXTH FLEET, IS IMPEDING THE ARAB OIL EMBARGO AND IS IN DANGER OF BEING ADDED TO THE ARAB'S LIST OF EMBARGOED COUNTRIES. (IN FACT, THE FLEET IS FUELED BY STOCKS PROVIDED UNDER NATO AGREEMENTS.) ASKED FOR THE ITALIAN REACTION TO A POSSIBLE ARAB EMBARGO ON FUEL FOR NATO FORCES, THE ITALIAN FOREIGN OFFICE FLATLY STATED ITALY WOULD NOT BE MOVED BY AN ARAB THREAT INVOLVING ITALY'S SUPPORT FOR NATO. THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS ASKED FOR THE SECRETARY'S GUIDANCE ON HOW TO MEET THIS LATEST SAUDI DEMARCHE. (SECRET) ROME 12280, 11/8 (EXDIS).

4. ALGERIA TO CUT OIL DELIVERIES 25 PERCENT

ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS, ALGERIA HAS INFORMED WESTERN OIL COMPANIES THAT IT IS CUTTING ITS OIL EXPORTS BY 25 PERCENT. ALGERIA'S MAJOR CUSTOMER FRANCE HAS BEEN ASSURED THAT ITS SUPPLIES WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED, BECAUSE OF ITS PRO-ARAB POLICY. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT ALGERIA'S EXPORTS OF NATURAL GAS WILL BE AFFECTED.
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(UNCLASSIFIED) AP 66 AND REUTER 228, 11/8.

5. ALGERIANS ASK POSTPONEMENT OF NEWSOM VISIT

THE ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT HAS TOLD USINT ALGIERS THAT IT MUST REQUEST THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM POSTPONE HIS UPCOMING VISIT TO ALGERIA. THE OSTENSIBLE REASON FOR THE REQUEST WAS THAT OFFICIALS WILL BE DEEPLY INVOLVED WITH PREPARATIONS FOR THREE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES. HOWEVER, CHARGE EAGLETON FEELS THAT THE REAL REASON IS ALGERIAN UNHAPPINESS THAT THE SECRETARY DID NOT STOP IN ALGIERS ON HIS MIDDLE EAST TRIP, ALONG WITH PIQUE OVER EGYPT'S UNILATERAL RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE US. (CONFIDENTIAL) ALGIERS 2345, 11/8

(EXDIS). RUSH

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